

## Parish Update #28

October 30, 2021

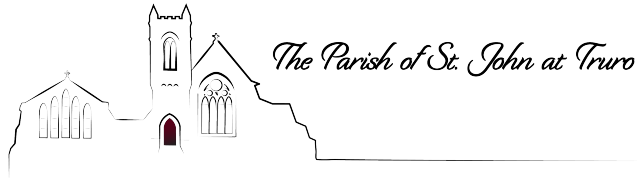
Hello friends at St. John's,

This is a two item update for things that didn't make it into Wednesday's communication. We've been looking for ways to provide worship opportunities for those who are not comfortable in a large crowd. So we've decided to experiment with a **week-day service of Morning Prayer**. The first installment will take place this **Friday, Nov. 5 at 9:00** in the chancel of the church. It will be a casual, said service which will take about ½ hour. Come out and join Licensed Lay Minister in Training, Natasha Bejarano, who has volunteered to lead the service. This Friday service will be held every three weeks for the near future and then we'll assess its effectiveness in serving needs. The other dates before Christmas are Friday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Dec. 17.

Mary Hubley, the president of Evening Branch ACW has a limited number of 2022 Anglican Church of Canada calendars for sale. The cost of the calendars is \$7. You may catch Mary at church or email her at [hubbleym@eastlink.ca](mailto:hubbleym@eastlink.ca) to reserve your copy.

Thanks and peace,

Rev. Lori



## Parish Update #27

October 27, 2021

Hi folks,

We are now three weeks into our re-opening plan and things seem to be going well. We are currently holding **one service on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** Attendance is not limited and there is no need to register under Phase 5. Masks are still required and you will be asked to sign in with your name and phone number at the door for contact tracing purposes. We are using the Link Door only as an entry point. We ask that you continue to practice good hand hygiene in the building and respect others' physical space. Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

**Vaccination Proof:** At this point in Phase 5, proof of vaccination (POV) is not required for a regular Sunday morning service as the worshipping community is regarded as a relatively stable group and has been designated essential by the provincial government. This is not the case for weddings, funerals or receptions held in our buildings. Please be aware that you will require a POV for any of these events taking place in our space. Meetings and events during the week also require POV to be presented.

**Common Cup:** As I reported in the last update, we are not currently using the common cup for the reception of wine at the Eucharist and it is not clear if and when the cup will return. As a result, we are trying some other methods of distributing the wine. Currently, we're applying a drop of wine to your host with an eye-dropper as you receive it. This seems to be working well and so far the feedback has been positive. We are interested in your reactions to these different methods of wine delivery. Are they reverent? Practical? Would you be content with them as a more permanent way of receiving the wine?

### In other news:

As previously mentioned, our Parish Council is planning a **belated good-bye gift for Michael and Adele Stokoe** who moved to British Columbia after having played a large role in the leadership of our parish over the years. Our gift will be a Memory Book which can include photos or written messages (memories, greetings) from all of us. If you have something you would like to include, simply send it to Kim Benedict at [memories4stokoes@gmail.com](mailto:memories4stokoes@gmail.com) by Nov. 7. It is hoped that the book can go to the Stokoes for Christmas. If you have questions, you can direct them to Kim at that email address. Thanks for your help with this and thank you to Kim for co-ordinating the submissions.

**Sunday School** reopened on Sunday, Oct. 24. We had been waiting until the need for physical distancing was lifted for the gathering of our children in our small Godly Play space. We are thrilled to welcome the children back to learning and fellowship.

Our **Christmas Index** project is up and running for 2021. We anticipate providing Christmas dinner and other groceries and self-care items for 30 families in our community. You may bring your donations on Sundays and place them in the red grocery cart at the back of the church or on Tuesdays to the Link entrance between 1-3 p.m. where a volunteer will be waiting to receive them. The list for items needed is as follows.

### **Christmas Index Needs 2021**

#### **Oct 10**

Toothbrushes / Toothpaste

#### **Oct 17**

Small can of vegetables (398ml)

Small can of baked beans (398ml)

#### **Oct 24**

Can of soup / Can of tuna

#### **Oct 31**

Bottle of jam (500ml)

Bottle of peanut butter (500ml)

#### **Nov 7**

Box of crackers (500 gm)

Box of cereal. (500 gm)

#### **Nov 14**

Can of juice (1.8 L)

Small can of fruit (398ml)

#### **Nov 21**

Package of cookies (454 gm)

Box of Stove Top Dressing

#### **Nov 28**

Can of cranberry sauce/dressing

Box of tea bags (30 count), instant coffee, hot chocolate

**Dec 5**

3 boxes Kraft Dinner /  
Bag of Christmas candy (300 gm)

**Dec 12**

Tub margarine (454 gm)  
Monetary donations toward purchase of potatoes, turnip, carrots

**Dec. 19** - Last Sunday for donations

Our parish **Mitten Tree** is also up at the back of the church for the winter season and already has some lovely homemade mittens adorning it. As you know, we distribute mittens, hats and scarves to local elementary schools to keep little hands warm at recess. If you've had children and grandchildren you know how often mittens get lost and the schools really do appreciate having a supply for children to use. Thanks for your help with this warm little project.

Early in November, we will kick off our annual **Mission to Seafarer's Christmas Shoebox** program. These boxes are distributed to sailors from around the world who arrive in the port of Halifax throughout the year. You may compile a complete box or donate several items which the Mission will combine into boxes. You may also donate phone cards for the seafarer's use. The list of suggested items follows: hat, scarf, mitts/gloves, socks, soap, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrush, tooth paste, hard candy (no chocolate), lip balm, playing cards, and a small memento of NS, PEI or Canada (optional).

**Retirement Celebrations:** As you know, Rev. Gary Yetman retired from our parish in July of 2020 and Rev. Dorothy retired on Thanksgiving weekend this year. We have been hoping to be able to celebrate their ministries with us throughout the pandemic and lockdown and limited attendance periods. It didn't seem right to hold a celebration when many folks could not be with us. But now is a time of freer attendance and the possibility of low-contact receptions with proof of vaccination. So we are happy to say that we will hold a special day of celebration with Rev. Gary and Diane and Rev. Dorothy and Warren on Sunday, Dec. 5. Please mark the day and plan to be with us!

And speaking of Rev. Dorothy's retirement, here is the text of what she said to us on Sunday, Oct. 10 at our Thanksgiving service. She will have the last word for this update.

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven....*

*Now is the time for me to take off my collar and a time for me to express my thanks.*

*Thanks to so many ..... I made a list last week....can't name everyone. The hearts are for all I have forgotten or are unaware of.*

*I fell in love with St John's when I was a very young child...everything here awakened my senses, the stone walls, the colours in the windows, the smooth feel of the wood pews, the sound of the music and being with my dear Aunt Alice who brought me here, for matins and evensong. We came often enough that the canticles were forever imbedded in my memory before I could read. Loved to sing them. Love built these walls, love brought me here. This was home.*

*We sat in a pew where the cloak room is now and Rev Mr. Thompson would come sit and chat....*

*He told me ..... "One day you'll sing in the choir". It was a wonderful prophecy to anticipate.*

*When my grandmother died when I was ten, and none of her grandchildren were baptized, he baptized us all in the font here. There I had a profound experience of wholeness .....the empty spaces in me were now filled. Strange and wonderful. Aunt Alice died the next year and I wondered in the desert until at 14 a friend invited me to come to confirmation class with her.*

*Rev Mr. Graven was here then, it was another time of great joy and learning. Much more for which to be thankful. At 18 Then Rev Mr. Martell encouraged me when I told him my mentors had advised me to go to Teachers College.... "Give it a try", he said. "Maybe later you could go to Art College.... Teachers College it was, thank God. A job I loved and I met Warren while attending Teachers' Summer School after another prompting from the spirit to go to that dance... Rev Martell married us and baptized our first child.....then off to Ontario we go...to come back for visits....*

*When I had a call to ministry we were in a small city parish that was about to close. I had no idea how this could be accomplished and left it in God's hands and went on with life.*

*Warren retired and we moved back to Nova Scotia as had been our plan.*

*We were welcomed here by so many wonderful people and invited to join the choir. Aaaaah.*

*Rev Mr. Thompson.....thank you. When Rev Lori found we had been lay readers, she set us to work. We were invited, encouraged by the students to join the EFM class. Maybe it would help with our lay ministry..... Rev David when we met him at my brother's funeral just seemed to expect us to come so we did .....little did we know where it would lead.*

*A dear lady here after hearing me preach one day asked if I ever thought of being a priest and said "Don't wait too long." Lori after much patient listening said "Go talk to the bishop." I was*

*the last person accepted into the old Non-Stipendiary program. You were with me on the journey. God's plan in God's good time. To be priested here was an amazing gift I could never have imagined sitting back there when I was a little girl, sitting in the back.*

*The good that has happened in my life has come because of listening to the promptings of the Spirit, and those promptings often came through the voice and action of Spirit filled people around me. All of you, not just the clergy, have been with me on the journey, together, you have been that voice and helper to me. I thank God for all of you, past and present, who built this place with the gifts of the earth, who gather to make it come alive with song and praise, who show God's love in word and action. It has been a great joy and blessing to have served you as priest. Thank you for letting me. The spirit prompts me now to rest. When I told one of my sister's that I was going to retire from ministry... she wisely said our whole life is ministry.....so maybe it's not retirement as much as just a change in ministry, A time to go back to that first prophecy to sing in the choir.....*

*I see so many wonderful things happening here....I wonder what plans God has for us now.. Love brought me here, love bids me stay... And now, one last time....may*

*The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts calm in the face of all that troubles you. May the love of God surround you, and give you assurance you are God's precious child. May the spirit of God fill your heart to overflowing with that love, and accomplish in you more than you could ask or imagine....All Blessings of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen*

Thanks, Dorothy.

Peace to you all,  
Rev. Lori